

VOICE of the WILD OLYMPICS

Olympic Park Associates

Founded in 1948



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Marbled Murrelet chick. Black Hills Audubon.

WA State DNR Offers Inadequate Strategy for Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation

In March OPA submitted comments for Washington's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) **Long-Term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet**. The plan directs how the DNR will manage critical murrelet habitat on WA State Forest lands. OPA advocates full recovery of all federally listed fish and wildlife species within the Olympic ecosystem. Since the decline in Marbled Murrelets has been strongly associated with destruction of old-growth nesting habitat on the West Coast, strong measures must be taken to protect remaining and future nesting habitat.

Fifteen percent of existing murrelet habitat in the state exists on DNR lands. In 1997, DNR made commitments to protect Marbled Murrelet habitat in its Habitat Conservation Plan. Since then murrelet populations have continued to plummet in Washington, declining by 7% a year for the last 10 years. In December, the Marbled Murrelet was listed as a state endangered species in Washington.

We found the alternatives offered in DNR's draft EIS to be inadequate to insure recovery of the species. All alternatives showed a continuing decline in

Continued on P. 5, Murrelet

OPA Meetings

Next: Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Place: Kingston Yacht Club

Regular Meetings Schedule: 4th Tuesday of odd-numbered months, except the 3rd Tuesday in November and no meeting in July.

OPA members are always welcome at Board meetings. Please join us.

Your Legislators

WA State: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/>

U.S. Congress: 202-224-3121 to reach any member of Congress

US Senate, Washington, DC 20510 www.senate.gov

Senator Maria Cantwell
511 Hart SOB
DC 202-224-3441
Seattle 206-220-6400
www.cantwell.senate.gov

Senator Patty Murray
154 Russell SOB
DC 202-224-2621
Seattle 206-553-5545
www.murray.senate.gov

US House of Representatives, DC 20515

1 Rep. Suzan DelBene (D)
318 Cannon HOB
202-225-6311
Bothell 425-485-0085
Mt. Vernon 360-416-7879
www.delbene.house.gov

2 Rep. Rick Larsen (D)
2113 Rayburn HOB
202-225-2605
Everett 425-252-3188
Bellingham 360-733-4500
www.larsen.house.gov

3 Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R)
1130 Longworth HOB
202-225-3536
Vancouver 360-695-6292
www.herrerabeutler.house.gov

4 Representative Dan Newhouse (R)
1641 Longworth HOB
P 202-225-5816
Yakima 509-452-3243
www.newhouse.house.gov

5 Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R)
203 Cannon HOB
202-225-2006
Colville 509-684-3481
Spokane 509-353-2374
Walla Walla 509-529-9358
www.mcmorrisrodgers.house.gov

6 Rep. Derek Kilmer (D)
1520 Longworth HOB
202-225-5916
Tacoma 253-272-3515
Bremerton 360-373-9725
Port Angeles 360-797-3623
www.kilmer.house.gov

7 Rep. Jim McDermott (D)
1035 Longworth HOB
202-225-3106
Seattle 202-225-3106
www.mcdermott.house.gov

8 Rep. David G. Reichert (R)
1127 Longworth HOB
202-225-7761
Issaquah 425-677-7414
Wenatchee 509-885-6615
www.reichert.house.gov

9 Rep. Adam Smith (D)
2264 Russell HOB
202-225-8901
Renton 425-793-5180
www.adamsmith.house.gov

10 Rep. Denny Heck (D)
425 Cannon HOB
202-225-9740
Tacoma 253-459-8514
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www.dennyheck.house.gov

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OPA's Web Page

www.olympicparkassociates.org

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Celebrate Polly Dyer's Life

Saturday, June 3, 2017, 1:00 pm

Mountaineers Program Center, in Magnuson Park

On June 3rd, Polly's family and friends are holding an event that Polly would have liked to attend: people getting together talking about old times and planning the future. Everyone who would like to share in this gathering is invited to be there. Come see mementos of Polly's life and passions. Hear a few stories. Enjoy her spirit and the goodwill she spread to save wilderness and land for wild animals.

She would want us to enjoy what she enjoyed.

Come join Polly's family and friends and celebrate her life.

Congress Renames Olympic Wilderness as Daniel J. Evans Wilderness

One of the great champions of wilderness in the Olympics and elsewhere in Washington has been honored by Congress. Last December, the 876,447-acre Olympic Wilderness was redesignated the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness. Senator Maria Cantwell sponsored the bill, and the companion bill was introduced in the House by Representative Dave Reichert, and a hefty handful of former members of Congress – Mike Lowry, Norm Dicks, Don Bonker, Al Swift and John Miller – supported giving Evans this great honor. It was signed into law on December 14, 2016 by President Barack Obama. Our gratitude goes out to former OPA trustee Joe Mentor for his work toward this recognition.

And

Olympic National Park - Dedication of the Newly Named Wilderness

August 18, Hurricane Ridge, Public Invited

Check OPA's website for details: www.olympicparkassociates.org.

And

Governor Evans and Senator Bill Bradley On-Stage Discussion in Seattle to Celebrate the Elwha and Hope

June 28, 7:30 pm, Benaroya Hall, in Seattle

Don't miss this historic evening with these two conservation visionaries: Bradley, cosponsor of Elwha Restoration Act; and Evans, supporter of wilderness in Washington's 3 National Parks, including Olympic, and a friend of OPA.

Moderator: Lynda Mapes, Seattle Times reporter/author

Host: NatureBridge -- OPA is a partner.

Tickets: Presale tickets for OPA members and supporters at www.naturebridge.org/bradley, and use the passcode "Nature."

NAVY ELECTRONIC WARFARE NEWS

OPA Qualifies to Go to Court Against Olympic Peninsula's Navy Warfare Training Range

OPA has received a letter from the Forest Service saying we properly followed the rules of objecting to the Navy's request for a special permit allowing electronic emitters to be trucked about the Olympic National Forest.

This means we can go to court, if we wish, to continue our effort to stop this noisy flight pattern roaring over the west side of the Olympic Peninsula. The fly-over areas in Olympic National Park include the Bogachiel, Queets, Quinault, and ocean beaches.



Growler courtesy of NW Public Radio.

Since receiving that letter we have heard that the final, FINAL decision and implementation of the Forest Service's special use permit will occur at the end of June 2017. Once that happens, qualified people and organizations can start court action in a federal court asking a federal judge to deny the issuing of the permit.

OPA maintains that, like the Navy, Olympic National Park is valuable to our country. The Navy can move its activities; Olympic National Park and its wildlife cannot.

NOISE POLLUTION IN NATURE

Recording the Sounds of Nature's Quietest Places: The Insidious Effects of Noise Pollution

Video by Gordon Hempton, OPA Board Member. Shown on CBS Sunday Morning. Published 4/23/2017.

Watch this video at <https://youtube.com/watch?v=sE65Y6xbwNM>

Gordon Hempton, who calls himself the Sound Tracker, is an "acoustic ecologist" who has traveled the world recording the sounds of nature, from bird-song and rainfall to babbling brooks and the rustling of leaves. But the noise we humans make is making it harder to find those quiet places - and, he says, it's having real consequences for wildlife as well. Bernie Krause, a musician and sound recordist, has become

an audio anthropologist, documenting the sounds of nature. He also has noticed dramatic changes in some areas, such as in a Costa Rican rain forest. He helps correspondent Lee Cowan (and us) listen to the difference.



Warbling Vireo

REVIEW: SCIENCE MAGAZINE

Noise Pollution Is Invading Even the Most Protected Natural Areas

by Ula Chrobak, *Science Magazine*, May 4 2017, 2:00 pm

<http://www.sciencemag.org/2017/05/noise-pollution-invading-even-most-protected-natural-areas>

This month's timely **Science** story reports on new data showing that "noise pollution from humans has doubled sound levels in more than half of all protected areas in the United States—from local nature reserves to national parks—and it has made some places 10 times louder. Noise pollution doubled sound levels in 63% of protected areas and caused a 10-fold increase in 21%," the team reports ... in *Science*.

Such levels can harm wildlife and annoy visitors in natural areas.

[A map of the U.S. using colors to represent different noise levels] shows the levels of human-caused noise (noise exceedance) across parks, wilderness, and other natural spaces. Does a curious "noisier" patch in the otherwise quiet western Olympic Peninsula actually represent aircraft noise?

Olympic National Forest Targets Excess Roads in the Dungeness Watershed

Olympic National Forest is beginning to address a plethora of excess, erosion-prone logging roads in the Dungeness watershed. The agency cannot afford to maintain its more than 2000 miles of roads, and many are harmful to salmon habitat and water quality. The National Forest is proposing a visionary approach stemming from the collaborative Dungeness Watershed Action Plan, which OPA helped shape. The early scoping phase of the project ended in April. A draft plan will be released later this year.

The Dungeness Watershed Roads Management project proposes to:

- decommission 16 miles of high-risk or unneeded roads;
- close but maintain 14 miles of roads for possible future management;
- relocate two trail heads, and convert 1.4 miles of road to trail.

Among the unneeded roads to be decommissioned are the failing McDonald Creek road and related spur roads; the Canyon Creek road (2875-070) which invites illegal use by ORVs; and the end of the

Silver Creek road (2870), which provides short-cut access into Silver Lakes in the Buckhorn Wilderness and has led to overuse and severe degradation of this stunning subalpine basin.

One and 4/10 miles of the lower Dungeness access road (2870-230) will be converted into a trail, enhancing recreational opportunities in that scenic and accessible area. The 2870-270 spur that accesses the rugged Maynard Burn trail will be maintained.

OPA supports all of these actions. In our scoping letter we urged the Forest Service also to decommission the 2870-150 spur that encroaches into the wild lower Graywolf watershed, and remove several "off-system" roads that are being degraded by destructive and illegal ORV use and related trash.

These and other roads are the tragic legacy of the Forest Service's single-minded emphasis on clearcut timber extraction over past decades. Under the Northwest Forest Plan, Olympic is now a forest in recovery. OPA encourages forest management to foster ecological restoration in these areas, and to resist pressure from motorized recreationists to maintain all roads everywhere regardless of cost.

To review the project, go to: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=49643
To read OPA's scoping letter, go to: olympicparkassociates.org.

Continued from P. 1.

Marbled Murrelet

murrelets for the next 50 years. For this reason, OPA supports the Conservation Alternative proposed by the Marbled Murrelet Survival Project Coalition, which includes the Washington Forest Law Center, Washington Environmental Council, Seattle Audubon, and the Olympic Forest Coalition (OFCO), among others. We requested that DNR analyze this Conservation Alternative in a Supplemental EIS and select the Conservation Alternative as the preferred alternative.

OPA noted that all the alternatives there were offered allow harvest in some amount of existing murrelet habitat. With habitat losses expected to accrue due to human-caused global warming, further losses on DNR lands must be avoided at all costs. All current and future murrelet habitat should be fully protected.

We requested that additional measures be taken. All current and future habitat within the next 50 years should be excluded from harvest. All Emphasis Areas

and Special Habitat Areas from Alt. E (collectively "Conservation Areas") should be combined with protected murrelet areas. And "no-touch" 150 meter buffers should be established around all occupied murrelet sites and old forest as mapped by the 2008 Science Team.



Marbled Murrelet © Rick & Nora Bowers

Look to OPA's and Olympic Forest Coalition's websites for future developments in this important conservation plan.

Why and How Olympic Park Associates Needs You

Why?

Because **YOU** are the backbone of OPA -- the email and letter writer, the scoping visitor seeking information. You motivate our government representatives and officials to do what is necessary to preserve Olympic National Park. A democracy allows us to participate. We need your help to protect the wilderness and ecological integrity of Olympic National Park.

How? The NEPA Process Starts With Scoping

Most government decisions on changes in policy and land use are made under a process known as NEPA, National Environmental Policy Act. It starts with "Scoping" when the agency outlines for the public the scope and environmental effects of the project for the public. The agency places Scoping notices in newspapers and sends them to *people known to be interested in the area involved* --like you! This allows us -- and you -- to attend the Scoping meeting and/or send in questions and comments about the alternatives proposed. Usually agency staff are at Scoping meetings to answer your questions. Interested people like you can ask to be *put on the notification list for further information*.

Next Step: DEA or DEIS?

The next step is a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) or a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). In the Draft, the agency presents alternatives, questions, and answers. The DEIS is a more complicated document than the DEA. Often, this is where the disagreements arise. Interested organizations and citizens who find the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) inadequate may ask that the DEA be **re**-presented as a DEIS, which requires greater study of the environmental effects.

Agencies specify the number of days during which they will accept comments on the Draft document. Importantly, only comments made during that time period can become the basis for future administrative or judicial review. Comments received after the comment period can be ignored, so people or organizations who do not comment on the draft can lose their ability to later contest decisions by the agency.

The Final EA or EIS

Final EA [FEA] or Final EIS [FEIS] is the next step. Here the agency announces its decision and the reasoning behind it. The agency sets the number of days the public has to comment on the Final decision.

The Record of Decision: Accept or Challenge?

Following the FEA or FEIS, the agency releases its Record of Decision [ROD]. Those disagreeing with the ROD have a number of days to challenge in court the decision and the agency's reasons **IF** the chal-

lenger has registered comments during the Draft period. A challenge can be based on the environmental facts regarding the plan, or on the NEPA procedures used by the agency.

Your Role

You can become part of the process by contacting an agency when an issue arises -- like the DNR's Marbled Murrelet conservation plan (P. 1), or ONP's goat management plan (P 7). By maintaining contacts in those agencies, you may learn of changes being considered before changes are actually made. Sometimes, through discussions, agencies' decisions can be stopped or modified before they progress into the NEPA process. Knowing there is public concern may prompt an agency to reconsider.

Your most important ways to be involved are:

- to make comments in the NEPA process, and
- to educate your legislative representatives and government agencies about your support or opposition to particular plans or goals.

Also, talk to your friends about the issues. Numbers do count. The democratic reality is that the more they hear, the better they listen. A short email or letter is worth more than money. You have one vote, the same as the wall-street millionaire. With it you can make a difference in preserving this important and beautiful part of the world.

Your Success Is OPA's

OPA's 69 year history proves this, from taking out the Elwha dams, to adding Shi Shi beach to Olympic National Park, to halting other actions that would have been detrimental to the park. It all has happened because of the passion of OPA members.

Case in point: the most recent call to OPA members for help was about the Enchanted Valley chalet problem. **You** raised the total count to 1,399 letters and emails. We simply out-wrote the opposition.

The Next Things

In the near future, other issues important to OPA members will need your support. How to handle the goats introduced in 1924? How to save the solitude of Olympic National Park from the noise of Navy jet flyovers? What elements must be part of a wilderness management plan in order to protect the wilderness and ecological integrity of the park?

YES, your dues are very helpful. OPA needs them to provide the *Voice of the Wild Olympics* and other administrative expenses. We have no paid staff. We contract for accounting, printing, and computer services. Occasionally OPA gives a contribution to another organization to help support mutual goals.

YOU will always be the backbone of OPA.

ONP Goat Management Plan Nears Completion

The public received a glimpse of Olympic National Park's forthcoming Mountain Goat Management Plan DEIS in April, when park wildlife biologist Dr. Patti Happe gave a presentation on goat management at the park visitor center. The goat story began innocently enough, when a dozen goats were introduced to the Olympic Mountains between 1925 and 1929. That was before the area became a national park, and wildlife was being swapped all around the west.

Goat numbers remained small and localized for a time, but by the 1980s the population had topped 1,000, and damage from browsing, trampling, and wallowing became increasingly noticeable. Experimental live captures and removals reduced the population by 400 goats in the mid '80s, and a census in 1990 revealed a population of about 400 animals remaining. "But mountain goats are notoriously difficult to count," Happe noted, "and population estimates were rough."

A 1994 draft management plan quantified damage to alpine vegetation and soils and proposed to remove remaining non-native goats by aerial shooting. Animal rights activists protested, and Congressman Norm Dicks, who represented the area, weighed in. To the disappointment of conservationists, the plan was dropped.

By 2005 mountain goats began to repopulate Klahhane Ridge and other areas -- after nearly a two-decade absence. Klahhane goats began to acclimate to people. Between 2007 and 2008, they became aggressive, leading to the tragic death of Bob Boardman from a goat attack in 2010.

A survey conducted in 2011 indicated that goat numbers were increasing at five percent annually. But a census taken in 2016 resulted in a population estimate of 623 -- an eight percent annual increase from 2004. The "trend line" was heading steeply toward 700 and 1000, close to where we were in the 1980s at the height of alpine degradation

The scoping process for a renewed mountain goat management plan began in 2011. Public meetings were held and sample alternatives were circulated to the public. The major difference in the current plan is that Olympic National Forest

and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) are participating in the effort. Goats will be removed from the national forest as well as the park, and WDFW will transport them to suitable habitat in the Cascades where native mountain goat populations have failed to recover from overhunting on National Forest lands.

The draft plan will offer four alternatives: no action; live capture and relocation; lethal removal; and a combination of live capture and lethal removal. This last option, supported by OPA and the most likely to be preferred, will contract out live capture by helicopter and transport and relocation by WDFW. There will be two two-week capture periods per year. Most animals will be captured in the first two to three years, followed by shooting from helicopters and by rangers and by certified volunteers on the ground for another two years. Ongoing maintenance will be required. The goal under that alternative is total removal of non-native goats.

The draft plan is complete and awaiting approval by the Department of Interior. Funding has been secured, and if the plan proceeds on schedule, it will be released this spring and implemented in summer 2018. OPA looks forward to finally resolving this long-standing threat to resources and human safety in the national park's and national forest's alpine areas.



QIN and Neighbors and Allies Stand Strong to Keep Crude Oil Out of Grays Harbor

Thanks to Steve Robinson, Larry Workman, and Justine James, all of the Quinault Tribe. Originally appeared in the Nuquam publication.

On July 8, 2016 more than 600 QIN Tribal members, our Grays Harbor neighbors and our allies gathered to call on the Hoquiam City Administration to reject proposed crude oil terminals. The spirit of unity to protect the shared waters and shared values of the region was captured perfectly with an inspiring flotilla led by traditional canoes and songs, accompanied by fishing boats and kayaks.

The flotilla was greeted along the Hoquiam River by the large gathering made up of tribal members, local residents of Grays Harbor, and supporters from around Washington State to kick off the event: as much a celebration as a demonstration.

After leading the short march down 8th street to City Hall, QIN President Fawn Sharp rallied speakers and a crowd that included representatives of the Quileute, Makah and Lummi Tribes as well as local elected officials and leaders from Grays Harbor County, Aberdeen, Hoquiam and Ocean Shores.

“Not only do we stand strong internally with the Quinault, we stand strong with our neighbors. Not only are tribal citizens taking a stand, but those non-Indian citizens that share our values and share our waters have stood strong with us and we thank you for that,” said President Sharp. “We are the seventh generation since our Quinault treaty was signed in the 1800s. And it’s this generation that is going to stand on our treaty to ensure seven generations in the future.”

“I appreciate all the time and effort put in for this demonstration,” said Hoquiam Mayor Jasmine Dickhoff. “I got involved in government because I felt great pride in the possibilities ahead of us as a community ... not just here in Hoquiam, but with all of our neighbors. This rally is a testament of shared values and I want to thank you all for coming and sharing your voices and concerns.”



The risk of oil spills from trains, storage tanks and barges to a shared economy and way of life for the region was a theme for many of speakers’ remarks.

“According to the (WA) Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Grays Harbor is an area that is particularly sensitive to the adverse effects of oil spills,” said Larry Thevik, vice-president of the Dungeness Crab Fishermen’s Association. “If there were to be a spill, the volume of oil that is being considered would lead to a catastrophic loss of habitat.”

“With whom shall we be made to share our waters? If it’s going to be these big oil companies bringing in these toxic and explosive oil trains I say thanks but no thanks. Spoiled waters threaten shared salmon,” said Francis Estalilla, a local physician and avid sports fisherman.

The rally came at a critical point as a decision looms about proposed crude oil terminals at the Port of Grays Harbor....

QIN would like to thank everyone who attended this powerful one-of-a-kind event and the groups that helped organize it, including the canoe families of the Quileute, Makah and Lummi Tribes, Citizens for a Clean Harbor, the Stand Up To Oil campaign and the Backbone Campaign.

For more inspiring visuals Google the phrase **youtube shared waters stand up to oil** and click on the 1 minute, 11-second video.





Poetry Walks to Celebrate National Poetry Month / National Park Week

In April Olympic National Park, our treasured UNESCO World Heritage Site, was a setting for the celebration of National Poetry Month and National Park Week. The North Olympic Library System partnered with the Olympic National Park for a fourth season of Poetry Walks. These walks guided trekkers past a series of poems on signposts along four trails in the Park: the Hall of Mosses Trail, the Living Forest Trail, the Madison Falls Trail, and the Peabody Creek Trail.

Featured poets included Emily Brontë, Mary Oliver, Raymond Carver, and OPA board member Tim McNulty. WA129, a new anthology edited by Washington State Poet Laureate, was also featured and another OPA board member's poem from that collection was read during one of the Poetry Walks. The public makes so many uses of wild places. It is up to us all to protect them.

Sleeping In The Forest

I thought the earth remembered me, she
took me back so tenderly, arranging
Her dark skirts, her pockets
Full of lichens and seeds. I slept
As never before, a stone
on the riverbed, nothing
between me and the white fire of the stars
but my thoughts, and they floated
light as moths among the branches
of the perfect trees. All night
I heard the small kingdoms breathing
Around me, the insects, and the birds
Who do their work in the darkness. All night
I rose and fell, as if in water, grappling
with a luminous doom. By morning
I had vanished at least a dozen times
Into something better.

- Mary Oliver

Northern Olympic Library System
<http://www.nols.org/events/featured-poets.html>

Trillium

First spoken word
after a winter's silence --
small leaf of immaculate white
afloat on the damp forest floor.

Curled back petals softer than breath,
dusting of pollen and dew.

One today, like a blessing
in a slash-filled swamp by a cat road
just as the rain let up.

- Tim McNulty



Autumn on Oyster Bay

The fir branch, heavy with last night's rain,
bows deeply to applauding gulls,
salutes a heron.

She pokes and prods the low tide mud
while raccoons clam.

- LLyn De Danaan



Voice of the Wild Olympics

Sally W. Soest, Editor

Olympic Park Associates
PO Box 27560
Seattle, WA 98165-2560

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*The value of an organization endeavoring to promote
the protection and integrity of
a World Heritage Site and its Wilderness is infinite.*

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